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# Your Medicare Handbook

HEALTH INSURANCE  
UNDER  
SOCIAL SECURITY

Health Insurance	
SOCIAL SECURITY ACT	
NAME OF BENEFICIARY	JOHN Q PUBLIC
CLAIM NUMBER	000-00-0000-A
IS ENTITLED TO	SEX
HOSPITAL INSURANCE	MALE
MEDICAL INSURANCE	EFFECTIVE DATE
SIGN HERE	7-1-66
John J. Public	

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HOSPITAL INSURANCE (PART A)  
MEDICAL INSURANCE (PART B)

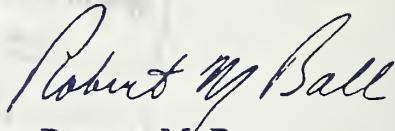
Dear Beneficiary:

This is Your Medicare Handbook. It explains the benefits you are entitled to under Medicare and tells how the program works. I believe this handbook will answer most of your questions about Medicare, but some details have necessarily been omitted.

Should you ever have a question about the amount of a bill Medicare helped pay, get in touch with the organization that handled the payment.

If you need further information or want help concerning your Medicare protection or any other social security matters, please get in touch with your social security office. The people there are always glad to help you.

Sincerely yours,



ROBERT M. BALL  
Commissioner of Social Security

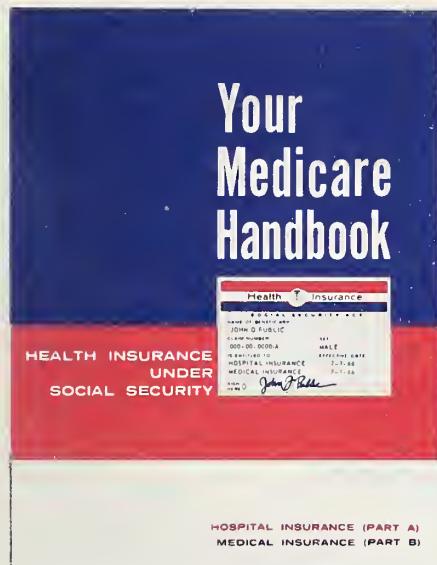


P.S.: The cost of health care has been rising faster than other costs of living. When health care costs go up, Medicare costs more too.

You can help slow down the rise in health care costs in two ways:

1. If you know you are going to have to see a doctor about some ailment, don't put it off too long. If you wait too long, the ailment may be much harder to cure, or even impossible. And it could cost much more.
2. Don't ask your doctor to prescribe more medicine or more treatments or a longer stay in a hospital or extended care facility than he thinks you really need.

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Like Medicare,  
your handbook  
has two parts. . .

### PART A

- The *first* section describes *hospital insurance*, often called *Part A* of Medicare. This is the part that helps pay for your care when you are in the hospital and for related health services, when you need them, after you leave the hospital.

### PART B

- The *second* section describes *medical insurance*, often called *Part B* of Medicare. This is the part that helps pay your doctor bills and bills for other medical services you need.

Your Medicare  
health  
insurance card  
shows  
the protection  
you have

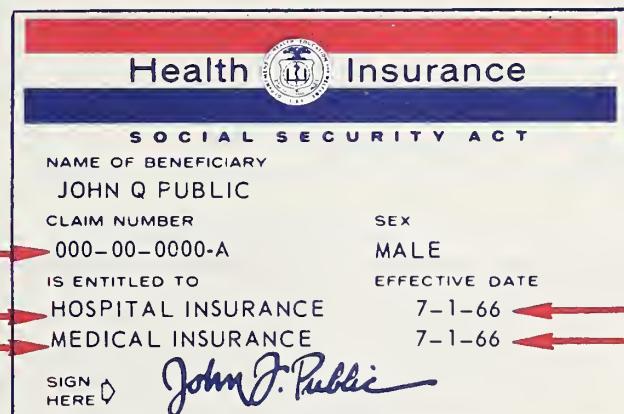
This is your personal health insurance claim number. It must be shown on all Medicare claims exactly as it is shown on your card—INCLUDING THE LETTER AT THE END.

This shows you have hospital insurance.  
This shows you have medical insurance.

The people at the hospital, doctor's office, or wherever you get services, can tell from your health insurance card that you have both hospital and medical insurance and when each started. This is why you should always have your card with you when you receive services.

When a husband and wife both have Medicare, they receive separate cards and claim numbers.

If you ever lose your health insurance card, the people in your social security office will get you a new one.



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## Hospital Insurance—Part A of Medicare

This shows that you are entitled to the benefits described in the hospital insurance part of this handbook.

Health Insurance	
SOCIAL SECURITY ACT	
NAME OF BENEFICIARY JOHN Q PUBLIC	
CLAIM NUMBER 000-00-0000-A	
IS ENTITLED TO HOSPITAL INSURANCE	
MEDICAL INSURANCE	
SIGN HERE John J. Public	SEX MALE EFFECTIVE DATE 7-1-66

The date your hospital insurance starts is shown here.

## HOW HOSPITAL INSURANCE WORKS



Your hospital insurance helps pay for medically necessary covered services provided by health facilities participating in Medicare when you are:

- **A BED PATIENT IN A HOSPITAL.**

And . . . if you need further care *after* a hospital stay, when you are:

- **A BED PATIENT IN AN EXTENDED CARE FACILITY, or**
- **A PATIENT AT HOME RECEIVING SERVICES FROM A HOME HEALTH AGENCY.**

The services hospital insurance helps pay for are called *covered services*. When you meet the conditions described on the following pages, your hospital insurance *covers almost all of the services* you would ordinarily receive as a bed patient in a participating hospital or extended care facility or as a patient at home receiving services from a participating home health agency. Your hospital insurance will also, in some cases, help pay for care in certain hospitals that do not participate in Medicare (see page 12).

When you receive covered services from a

participating hospital, extended care facility, or home health agency, you do not need to make any claim for your hospital insurance benefits. These institutions or agencies make the claims and receive the Medicare payment. They have agreed to charge you only for services which are not covered by Medicare.

You will always receive a notice from the Social Security Administration when a payment has been made on your behalf.

All outpatient hospital services are covered only by medical insurance. See page 18.

## Health Facilities Must Meet Certain Conditions to Take Part in Medicare

To participate in the Medicare program, health facilities must meet standards which help assure that they will be able to provide high quality health care. In addition, they must not charge the Medicare beneficiary for services paid for by the program, and they must abide by title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin.

# How Often You Can Use Your Hospital Insurance Benefits—and How Your Benefits Can Be Renewed

Your use of hospital insurance benefits is limited to certain *maximum* amounts for certain periods of time—but there is a way for your hospital insurance benefits to *start over*

*again* (except the “lifetime reserve” described on page 8.) You can figure out yourself how this works:

### HOW THE USE OF HOSPITAL INSURANCE BENEFITS IS COUNTED

#### WHEN YOU RECEIVE COVERED SERVICES AS—

- A bed patient in a hospital.
- A bed patient in an extended care facility.
- A patient at home receiving home health services.

#### YOUR PART A BENEFITS ARE—

- Up to 90 “hospital days” for each “benefit period.”
- Up to 100 “extended care days” for each “benefit period.”
- Up to 100 “home health visits” for each “benefit period.” (Page 11 describes the 1-year time limit on these visits.)

These three kinds of benefits and how you qualify for them are described in more detail on the following pages. But, as you can see, you can get covered services for up to these total numbers of “days” and “visits” for *each* “benefit period.” So you need to know what a “benefit period” is to know how often you can use your hospital insurance benefits.

### WHAT IS A “BENEFIT PERIOD”?

A “benefit period” is simply a period of time for measuring your use of hospital insurance benefits. (In the first Medicare Handbook and in some other Medicare publications, we called this period of time a “spell of illness,” which is the term used in the law. But because many people thought this term had something to do with a single illness or a particular “spell” of sickness, we are now calling it a “benefit period.”) This is how it works.

The first time you enter a hospital after your hospital insurance starts will be the beginning of your *first* benefit period. Your first benefit period *ends* as soon as you have not been a bed patient in any hospital (or any facility that mainly provides skilled nursing care) for *60 days in a row*. After that, a *new*

benefit period begins the next time you enter a hospital—and *that* benefit period ends as soon as you have *another* 60 days in a row when you are not a bed patient in any hospital (or any facility that mainly provides skilled nursing care). Then *another* benefit period can begin the *next* time you enter a hospital—and so on.

There is no limit to the number of benefit periods you may have. There is an easy way to remember the rule. Just keep in mind that *any time* you are not in any hospital or other facility mainly providing skilled nursing care for *60* days in a row a *new* benefit period will begin the next time you go into a hospital. And, of course, for each new benefit period, your full hospital insurance benefits are available again to use as you need them.

### You Get a Personal Record of Benefits Used

You don't have to bother about trying to keep track of how many "days" or "visits" you use in each benefit period. The notice you receive from the Social Security Administration after you have used any hospital insurance benefits will tell you how many benefit "days" and "visits" you have left in that benefit period. But, very few people who enter a hospital or extended care facility, or use home health services, need these services long enough to use all the benefits they have for a benefit period. So most people will never run out of "days" or "visits," because a new benefit period will almost always start with full benefits available again the next time they are needed.

**EXAMPLE:**

Mr. L was in the hospital for 14 days and then went home.

After being at home for 80 days, Mr. L needs to return to the hospital. When Mr. L is admitted this time, he is in a new benefit period. That means he is again eligible for up to 90 hospital days because more than 60 days have gone by since he was last in a hospital (or other facility that mainly provides skilled nursing care). The benefit days Mr. L used the time before do not matter because he is in a new benefit period.

However, because Mr. L had been in the hospital only 14 days, he still had 76 hospital benefit days left in the original benefit period. If he had had to go back to the hospital within 60 days, instead of 80, he could have used any of these remaining days that he needed during this second stay.

### How Hospital Insurance Benefits Are Financed

The hospital insurance program is financed by special contributions from employees and self-employed persons, with employers paying an equal amount. These contributions are collected along with regular social security contributions from the wages and self-employment income earned during a person's working years.

The contribution rate for the hospital insurance program is six-tenths of one percent of the first \$7,800 of earnings. It will increase gradually until 1987 when it will reach the final rate of nine-tenths of one percent.

These contributions are put into the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund from which the program's benefits and administrative expenses are paid. Funds from general tax

revenues are used to finance hospital insurance benefits for people who are covered under the program but are not entitled to monthly social security or railroad retirement benefits.

In addition, the law provides that the various dollar amounts for which the patient is responsible be reviewed annually. These dollar amounts include the first \$60 of hospital charges in each benefit period and different per-day amounts after certain periods of benefit use in hospitals and extended care facilities. These are described on the following pages. The law also provides that if this annual review shows that hospital costs have changed significantly these amounts must be adjusted for the following year.

## What Hospital Insurance Can Pay When You Are a Hospital Bed Patient

In *each* benefit period, your hospital insurance can help pay for *up to 90* days of bed patient care in any participating general care, tuberculosis, or psychiatric hospital.

- For the first 60 days—hospital insurance pays for all covered services, *except for the first \$60*.
- For the 61st through the 90th day—hospital insurance pays for all covered services, *except for \$15 a day*.

### IMPORTANT!

Once you have taken care of the *first \$60* of hospital expenses in each benefit period, **you do not have to pay it again**, even if you have to go back in a hospital more than once in that same benefit period.

## Also, You Have a "Lifetime Reserve" of 60 Additional Hospital Days

This is like a "bank account" of extra days to draw from if you need them. You can use them if you ever need more than 90 days of hospital care in the same benefit period. For each "lifetime reserve" day used, hospital insurance pays for all covered services, *except for \$30 a day*.

Each lifetime reserve day you use permanently reduces the total you have left.

Usually you will want to use your lifetime reserve days if you need hospital care after you have used all your 90 days in a benefit period. *Unless* you decide *not* to use them, the extra days of hospital care that you use are automatically taken from your lifetime reserve.

If for any reason you do not wish to use your reserve days, the hospital will ask you to say so in writing. In making your decision, you should consider any private insurance you have which may pay for some or all of your additional hospital care. And, of course, you may wish to talk to your doctor or the people at the hospital about whether in your particular situation you should draw on your lifetime reserve.

**EXAMPLE:** Mrs. S had to go to the hospital a number of times in the same benefit period and used up all her 90 days. Before a new benefit period could start, she again needed to go to a hospital. She can draw from her "lifetime reserve" days to help her pay for the hospital care.

## Special Rules for Benefits in Psychiatric Hospitals

For care in a psychiatric hospital, there is a lifetime limit of 190 hospital benefit days. Also, for a beneficiary who is a patient in a

psychiatric hospital on the day his hospital insurance starts, there is a special limitation which is described in Question 5 on page 13.

## **Your Benefits When You Are a Bed Patient in a Participating Hospital**

The list below describes the kinds of benefits that hospital insurance will help pay for

when you are a bed patient in a hospital and some of the services that it cannot pay for.

**Part A  
Helps  
Pay  
For:**

- Bed in a semiprivate room (2-4 beds in a room) and all meals, including special diets.
- Operating room charges.
- Regular nursing services (including intensive care nursing).
- Drugs furnished by the hospital.
- Laboratory tests.
- X-ray and other radiology services.
- Medical supplies such as splints and casts.
- Use of appliances and equipment furnished by the hospital such as a wheelchair, crutches, and braces.
- Medical social services.

**Part A  
Does  
NOT  
Pay  
For:**

- Personal comfort or convenience items (such as charges for telephone, radio, or television furnished at your request).
- Private duty nurses.
- Any extra charge for use of a private room, unless you need it for medical reasons.
- Noncovered levels of care.
- Doctors' services (medical insurance helps pay for these).

### **An Example of How Hospital Insurance Helps Pay for Hospital Care**

Mrs. C was in the hospital for 14 days. During her stay in the hospital, Mrs. C had an operation. Her bill included the hospital charges for semiprivate room and all meals, including special diet; use of the operating room; X-rays, laboratory tests; oxygen; and drugs furnished by the hospital. There was also a charge of \$9.25 for television and telephone services.

Of the total hospital bill of \$798.25, Mrs. C paid \$69.25. (This was the first \$60 for that benefit period plus the charges for the television and telephone.) Her hospital insurance took care of the remaining \$729. (And, of course, Mrs. C's medical insurance helped pay her doctor bills.)

## Hospital Insurance—Part A of Medicare

# Extended Care Benefits After You Leave the Hospital

Sometimes a patient no longer needs all the care which hospitals provide, but still needs full-time skilled nursing care and other health services which cannot be furnished in his home. In these cases, the doctor may transfer the patient from the hospital to an extended care facility. This is a specially qualified facility which is staffed and equipped to furnish full-time skilled nursing care and many important related health services.

Hospital insurance pays for all covered services in a participating extended care facility for the first 20 days you receive such services in each benefit period and all but \$7.50 a day for up to 80 more days in that same benefit period, *but only if all the following are true:*

1. Your medical needs require continuing skilled nursing care;

2. A doctor determines that you need extended care and orders such care for you;
3. You have been in a participating (or otherwise qualified) hospital for at least 3 days in a row before your admission;
4. You are admitted within 14 days after you leave the hospital; and
5. You are admitted for further treatment of a condition for which you were treated in the hospital.

If you leave an extended care facility and are readmitted to one within 14 days, you can continue to use your additional extended care benefit days for that benefit period without a new 3-day stay in a hospital.

The following list describes some of the kinds of extended care services hospital insurance will help pay for and some of the services that it cannot pay for.

### Part A Helps Pay For:

- Bed in a semiprivate room (2-4 beds in a room) and all meals, including special diets.
- Regular nursing services.
- Drugs furnished by the extended care facility.
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy.
- Medical supplies such as splints and casts.
- Use of appliances and equipment furnished by the facility such as a wheelchair, crutches, and braces.
- Medical social services.

### Part A Does NOT Pay For:

- Personal comfort or convenience items (such as charges for telephone, radio, or television furnished at your request).
- Private duty nurses.
- Any extra charge for use of a private room, unless you need it for medical reasons.
- Noncovered levels of care.
- Doctors' services (your medical insurance helps pay for these).

## Hospital Insurance—Part A of Medicare

# Home Health Benefits After You Leave the Hospital

After you have been in a hospital (or in an extended care facility *after* a hospital stay), your doctor may decide that the continued care you need can best be given in your own home through a home health agency. If the continuing care you need in your home includes part-time skilled nursing care or physical or speech therapy, Medicare can pay for this care and also for certain additional health care services you may need.

Hospital insurance pays for all covered services—for as many as 100 home health visits after the start of one benefit period and before the start of another.

The visits must be medically necessary and be furnished by a participating home health agency. Benefits can be paid for up to a year after your most recent discharge from a hospital or participating extended care facility *but only if all the following are true:*

1. You were in a participating (or otherwise qualified) hospital for at least 3 days in a row;

2. The continuing care you need includes part-time skilled nursing care or physical or speech therapy;
3. You are confined to your home;
4. A doctor determines that you need home health care and sets up a home health plan for you within 14 days after your discharge from the hospital or a participating extended care facility; and
5. The home health care is for further treatment of a condition for which you received services as a bed patient in the hospital or extended care facility.

For an explanation of how “visits” are counted, see Question 8 on page 13.

The following list describes the kinds of home health services that hospital insurance will help pay for and some of the services that it cannot pay for.

**Part A  
Helps  
Pay  
For:**



Part-time nursing care, physical therapy, or speech therapy.

And if you need any of the above services, the following services are also covered:

Occupational therapy.

Part-time services of home health aides.

Medical social services.

Medical supplies and appliances furnished by the agency.

**Part A  
Does  
NOT  
Pay  
For:**



Full-time nursing care.

Drugs and biologicals.

Personal comfort or convenience items.

Noncovered levels of care.

Meals delivered to your home.

## **Benefits for Care in Hospitals That Do Not Take Part in Medicare**

Nearly all hospitals in the country take part in Medicare. But if you are admitted for emergency care to a hospital that does not take part in Medicare, hospital insurance may still be able to help pay some of the bills.

Your hospital insurance can help pay for emergency care if the hospital: (1) meets certain conditions listed in the law; (2) is the closest or the quickest one to get to that

has a bed available; and (3) is equipped to handle the emergency.

If you receive emergency care in such a hospital, the benefit payment will usually be made to the hospital. If the hospital decides to bill you instead of Medicare, the benefit payment will be made to you. The people at your social security office will help you make your claim.

## **Utilization Review**

Each hospital and extended care facility has a Utilization Review Committee. The purpose of this committee is to help assure the most effective utilization of hospital or extended care facility services. The committee, which includes at least two physicians, reviews admissions on a sample basis and reviews ALL long-stay cases.

In some cases, the review will show that a patient's stay in the hospital or the extended care facility is no longer medically necessary. For a hospital inpatient, the review could indicate that a different kind of care would be more appropriate, for example, care in an extended care facility which Medicare could

help pay for. For the patient in the extended care facility, the review might show that the patient was no longer receiving the kind of care for which Medicare could pay extended care benefits.

When this happens, the committee talks the matter over with the patient's doctor and then makes a decision. If the decision is that the patient can receive the kind of care he needs elsewhere, the patient, his doctor, and the hospital or extended care facility are advised in writing.

Three days after this notice, Medicare, by law, has to stop paying inpatient benefits even if the patient stays in the facility.

## **Questions and Answers About Hospital Insurance**

- 1. Where can I find out if a hospital, extended care facility, or home health agency is participating in Medicare?**

Your doctor, or someone at the institution or agency, can tell you. Or you can ask the people in any social security office.

- 2. If I am injured while at work and my**

*medical expenses are (or could be) covered by the workmen's compensation law, will my hospital insurance also pay?*

No.

- 3. Does hospital insurance pay for services in a foreign hospital?**

No, but there is one exception: if (1)

# Questions and Answers About Hospital Insurance (continued)

you are in the United States when an emergency arises and (2) the foreign hospital is closer than the nearest hospital in the United States which could provide the emergency care you need. Then hospital insurance will help pay for the emergency care.

**4. *Can hospital insurance pay anything toward the cost of my care in a Christian Science sanatorium?***

Yes. Your hospital insurance can cover certain hospital and extended care services furnished to inpatients of a sanatorium operated, or listed and certified, by the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston. For more information, ask at any social security office.

**5. *Is there a special rule for beneficiaries who are in a psychiatric hospital when their hospital insurance protection starts?***

Yes. When a person is a patient in a psychiatric hospital *at the time* his hospital insurance starts, the days in the mental hospital during the 150-day period just before his hospital insurance starts count against the total number of benefit days he can use in a psychiatric hospital in his first benefit period.

These days, however, do not count against his lifetime maximum of 190 days of payment for care as a patient in a psychiatric hospital. Nor do they count against his benefit days in his first benefit period if he goes to a *general*

*hospital* for treatment of a condition other than mental illness. (For more information, get in touch with your social security office.)

**6. *What can I do if I think a mistake has been made in the amount of my hospital insurance benefits?***

The first thing to do is to ask someone at the hospital, extended care facility, or home health agency that provided the services. Usually they can answer your questions. Sometimes, however, they may need to refer you to the organization that handles their Medicare payments. If you are still not satisfied, get in touch with your social security office for information about your right to formal appeal.

**7. *What if I cannot pay the amounts that hospital insurance does not pay?***

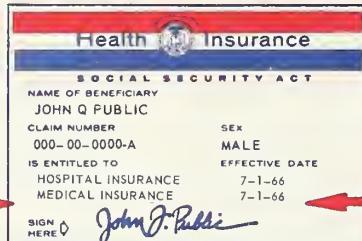
You may want to ask at your local public assistance office about help under a State program such as old-age assistance or medical assistance (sometimes called "medicaid").

**8. *What is a home health "visit"?***

One "visit" is counted *each* time you receive a covered health care service from a home health agency. If you receive two *different* services on the same day (for example, both a nurse and a physical therapist call on you), that would be *two* "visits." It would also be two "visits" if you received the *same* service twice in a day (such as two calls by a nurse).

## Medical Insurance—Part B of Medicare

This shows that you are entitled to all the benefits described in the medical insurance part of this handbook.



The date your medical insurance starts is shown here.

## YOU PAY HALF THE COST OF YOUR MEDICAL INSURANCE PROTECTION

The basic medical insurance premium for each person is \$5.30 a month through June 1971. It will be increased to \$5.60 for the 12-month period starting in July 1971. Those who delayed signing up for a long period of time after their first chance or who signed up again after canceling this insurance in the past are required by law to pay an additional 10 percent for each full year they were eligible but not enrolled. Starting in July 1971, the premium will be \$6.20 a month for those who did not enroll for a year or longer after they were eligible, \$6.70 a month for those who delayed 2 years or longer, and \$7.30 for those who delayed 3 years or longer.

Your premium covers half the cost of your medical insurance protection. The Federal Government pays the other half for you.

The medical insurance premium rate must

be reviewed annually. If necessary, the rate is changed to make sure that the total amounts collected in premiums and the equal amounts provided by the Government will continue to meet the full costs of the program. The results of the annual review are announced in December of each year. The change in the premium, if any, is effective for the 12-month period beginning the following July.

Medical insurance premiums are automatically deducted from monthly checks for those who receive social security benefits, railroad retirement benefits, or a civil service annuity. Those who do not receive any of these monthly checks pay their premiums directly to the Social Security Administration (or, in some cases, have premiums paid on their behalf under a State assistance program).

## If You Ever Decide to Cancel

You can cancel your medical insurance at any time. Your protection and your premiums will stop at the end of the calendar quarter after the quarter your notice is received. (A calendar quarter is any of the 3-month periods beginning with January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1.)

If you do cancel your medical insurance, you have only one chance to get it back. You may sign up again in one of the "general enrollment" periods which begin within 3 years after you cancel your medical insur-

ance. There is a general enrollment period *every* year—from January 1 through March 31.

If you should ever think of canceling your medical insurance protection, remember that you may not be able to get equal protection from other sources. Many Blue Cross-Blue Shield plans and commercial insurance companies do not offer broad coverage policies for people 65 and over, but only *extra* insurance for those who already have medical insurance under Medicare.

# HOW MEDICAL INSURANCE WORKS



Your medical insurance helps pay for—

**DOCTORS' SERVICES**

**OUTPATIENT HOSPITAL SERVICES**

**MEDICAL SERVICES AND SUPPLIES**

**HOME HEALTH SERVICES**

**OUTPATIENT PHYSICAL THERAPY**

**—and other health care services.**

To understand the way medical insurance works, it will help to know the following terms.

**Covered services:**

**\$50 deductible:**

**Reasonable charges:**

These are the kinds of services medical insurance can help pay for.

For each calendar year, medical insurance does not pay any of the first \$50 of reasonable charges for covered services.

Reasonable charges are determined by the Medicare carriers—the organizations selected in each State by the Social Security Administration to handle medical insurance claims—and take into consideration the customary charges of your doctor (or supplier) as well as the charges made by other doctors and suppliers in your locality for similar services.

After Medicare records show that your bills for covered services are over \$50 for a calendar year, medical insurance will pay 80 percent of the reasonable charges for covered services for the rest of that year. (There are two exceptions to this rule. One is the special rule on page 17, and the other is described in Question 2 on page 30.) Be sure to send in a claim as soon as your bills reach \$50 so

the Medicare records will show the first \$50 as well as the rest of your bills.

*Important:* There is only *one* \$50 medical insurance deductible each year—not a separate \$50 deductible for each kind of covered service. Also, medical expenses in the last 3 months of one year can sometimes count toward the \$50 deductible for the next year. This carry-over rule is described on page 24.

## EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS NOTICE

Whenever a medical insurance claim is sent in, you will receive a statement showing your use of medical insurance benefits. This statement will show you how much of your expenses have been credited to your \$50 deductible and the amount of the benefit

payment if any. The explanation of benefits statements are important because you can use the latest one to show your doctor and others when they want to know how much of the \$50 deductible you have met.

## **When a Doctor Treats You**

Medical insurance will help pay your doctor bills for all covered services you receive in the United States. Payment can be made no matter where a doctor treats you—in a hospital, his office, an extended care facility, your home, or at a group practice or other clinic.

You select your own doctor. He does not have to "sign up" or make any other special arrangements with Medicare.

For covered services you receive from your doctor, the medical insurance payment can be made either to you or to your doctor. See page 22 for the two ways payment can be made.

The following list shows the kinds of doctors' services that medical insurance will help pay for and some of the services it cannot pay for.

**Part B  
Helps  
Pay  
For:**

Medical and surgical services by a doctor of medicine or osteopathy.

Certain medical and surgical services by a doctor of dental medicine or a doctor of dental surgery.

Services by podiatrists which they are legally authorized to perform by the State in which they practice.

Other services which are ordinarily furnished in the doctor's office and included in his bill such as:

Diagnostic tests and procedures

Medical supplies

Services of his office nurse

Drugs and biologicals which cannot be self-administered.

**Part B  
Does  
NOT  
Pay  
For:**

Routine physical checkups.

Routine foot care and treatment of flat feet and partial dislocations of the feet.

Eye refractions and examinations for prescribing, fitting, or changing eyeglasses.

Hearing examinations for prescribing, fitting, or changing hearing aids.

Immunizations (unless directly related to an injury or immediate risk of infection such as a tetanus shot given after an injury).

Services of certain practitioners, for example:

Christian Science practitioners

Chiropractors

Naturopaths

## **Coverage of Dental Services**

Medical insurance covers the services of dentists only when the services involve surgery of the jaw or related structures or setting of fractures of the jaw or facial bones.

Medical insurance does *not* pay for dental

services such as the care, filling, removal, or replacement of teeth, or treatment of the gum areas nor for surgery or other services related to these kinds of dental care.

## **Radiology and Pathology Services by Doctors When You Are a Bed Patient in a Hospital**

Medical insurance pays *all* (100 percent) of the reasonable charges by doctors for radiology services such as X-rays, and pathology services such as blood and urine tests you receive as an inpatient in a participating or otherwise qualified hospital.

You may not receive any doctor bills for these services because many hospitals and the doctors who perform these services have agreed that the hospital will collect the payments due from your medical insurance. If you do receive doctor bills for these services, send them in as described on page 22 for full payment of the reasonable charges even

though you have not met the full deductible.

Medical insurance pays 80 percent of the reasonable charges by doctors for all other covered services you receive. Full payment can be made only for radiology and pathology services.

**SPECIAL RULE:** Because the full reasonable charges are taken care of when you receive radiology and pathology services as a hospital inpatient, these charges do not count toward the \$50 deductible.

## **Ambulance Services**

Medical insurance will help pay for ambulance transportation by an approved ambulance service to a hospital or skilled nursing home only when (1) the ambulance, its equipment, and personnel meet Medicare requirements, (2) transportation by other means could endanger the patient's health, and (3) the patient is taken to a facility serving the locality, or the *nearest* facility that is equipped to take care of him.

Under similar restrictions, medical insurance can help pay for ambulance services from one hospital to another, from a hospital to a skilled nursing home, or from a hospital or skilled nursing home to the patient's home if his home is in the same locality as the hospital or skilled nursing home.

## Outpatient Hospital Benefits

When people go to the hospital for diagnosis or treatment and are not admitted as bed patients, the services they receive are called *outpatient hospital services*.

Covered outpatient services whether for diagnosis or treatment are paid by medical insurance.

After the \$50 deductible has been met, Medicare takes care of 80 percent of the reasonable charges for all covered outpatient hospital services you receive.

The hospital will apply for the Medicare payment and will charge you for any part of the \$50 deductible you have not met plus 20 percent of the remaining reasonable charges for the outpatient services.

If the charge is \$50 or less and the hospital cannot determine how much of the \$50 deductible you have met, then the hospital may ask you to pay the entire bill. If you pay the bill, any Medicare payments that are due will be paid directly to you. Except in unusual circumstances, the hospital will prepare the Medicare claim for you. If you ever need help with your claim, get in touch with your social security office.

When you pay an outpatient bill of \$50 or less, here is what happens:

- *If you have already met the \$50 deductible*—Medicare will pay you 80 percent of the amount you paid the hospital.
- *If you have not met the \$50 deductible*—Medicare will credit the amount you paid toward your \$50 deductible. If that amount plus any part of the deductible you have previously met for the year adds up to more than \$50, medical insurance will pay you 80 percent of the amount above the \$50 deductible.

**EXAMPLE:** During the year, Mrs. J had bills of \$45 for covered services *before* she received treatment in the hospital outpatient department. The hospital charged her \$10 and she paid the bill at their request. When her claim is received, \$5 of the outpatient bill is used to make up her \$50 deductible and Mrs. J receives 80 percent of the remaining \$5, which would be \$4.

### IMPORTANT:

When you go to a hospital for outpatient services, be sure to show the people there your most recent explanation of benefits statement (see page 15). From this form, they can tell how much of the \$50 deductible you have met and how much of the deductible, if any, they may charge you.

## Outpatient Hospital Benefits (continued)

The following list describes the kinds of outpatient hospital services that medical in-

surance will help pay for and some of the services that it cannot pay for:

<b>Part B Helps Pay For:</b>	Laboratory services. X-ray and other radiology services. Emergency room services. Medical supplies such as splints and casts. Other diagnostic services.
<b>Part B Does NOT Pay For:</b>	Tests given as part of a routine checkup. Eye refractions and examinations for prescribing, fitting, or changing eyeglasses. Immunizations (unless directly related to an injury or immediate risk of infection such as a tetanus shot given after an injury). Hearing examinations for prescribing, fitting, or changing hearing aids.

## Outpatient Physical Therapy Services

Outpatient physical therapy services are covered by medical insurance when they are furnished under the direct and personal supervision of a doctor or when they are furnished as part of covered home health services.

Also, physical therapy services you receive

as an outpatient are covered when they are furnished by a qualified hospital, extended care facility, home health agency, clinic, rehabilitation agency, or public health agency, and they are furnished under a plan established and periodically reviewed by a doctor.

## Emergency Outpatient Care from Certain Nonparticipating Hospitals Can also be Covered

If you receive emergency outpatient care from a nonparticipating hospital which meets certain conditions, the hospital will usually bill Medicare for its share of the charges. It will then bill you for any part of the \$50 deductible you have not met plus 20 percent of the remaining reasonable charges.

The hospital may choose instead to bill you for the entire amount. In this case, your medical insurance will pay you 80 percent of the reasonable charges (after the \$50 deductible has been met).

For help in making your claim, get in touch with your social security office.

## **Home Health Benefits**

Your medical insurance will help pay for up to 100 home health visits each calendar year *but only if all the following are true:*

1. You need part-time skilled nursing care, or physical or speech therapy services;
2. You are confined to your home;
3. A doctor determines you need home health care;
4. A doctor sets up and periodically reviews the plan for home health care; and
5. The home health agency is participating in Medicare.

For an explanation of how home health

“visits” are counted, see Question 8 on page 13.

The home health agency always makes the claim for the benefit payment, so you do not submit a *Request for Medicare Payment* form when you receive home health services. Since medical insurance takes care of 80 percent of the reasonable charges, the agency will bill you for any part of the \$50 deductible you have not met plus 20 percent of the remaining reasonable charges.

The following list describes the kinds of home health services that medical insurance will help pay for and some of the services that it cannot pay for.

<b>Part B Helps Pay For:</b>	 <p>Part-time nursing care, physical therapy, or speech therapy And if you need any of the above services, the following services are also covered: Occupational therapy. Part-time services of home health aides. Medical social services. Medical supplies and appliances furnished by the agency.</p>
<b>Part B Does NOT Pay For:</b>	 <p>Full-time nursing care. Drugs and biologicals. Personal comfort or convenience items. Noncovered levels of care. Meals delivered to your home.</p>

## **Other Medical Services and Supplies**

This benefit helps you pay for a number of different medical services and supplies which may be necessary in the treatment of an illness or injury. They may be furnished in connection with treatment by your doctor, a medical clinic, or other health facility.

When a participating hospital, extended care facility, or home health agency provides covered services and supplies, it will make the claim for the Medicare payment and will

bill you for any of the \$50 deductible you have not met and 20 percent of the remaining reasonable charges. Otherwise you or the supplier of services will make the claim, as described on page 22.

The following list shows the kinds of medical services and supplies that medical insurance can help pay for when they are medically necessary and ordered by your doctor and some that it cannot pay for.

**Part B  
Helps  
Pay  
For:**

- Diagnostic laboratory tests furnished by approved independent laboratories.\*
- Radiation therapy and diagnostic X-ray services.\*
- Portable diagnostic X-ray services furnished in your home under a doctor's supervision.
- Surgical dressings, splints, casts, and similar devices.\*
- Rental or purchase of durable medical equipment prescribed by a doctor to be used in your home: for example, a wheelchair, crutches, or oxygen equipment.
- Devices (other than dental) to replace all or part of an internal body organ. This includes corrective lenses after a cataract operation.
- Certain ambulance services (see page 17).

**Part B  
Does  
NOT  
Pay  
For:**

- Prescription drugs and drugs you can administer yourself. For example, insulin injections for a diabetic condition.
- Hearing aids.
- Eyeglasses.
- False teeth.
- Orthopedic shoes or other supportive devices for the feet—except when shoes are a part of leg braces.

\* If you are a patient in a hospital or extended care facility and, for some reason, your hospital insurance cannot pay for these services (for example, because you have used up your benefit days), medical insurance can help pay for them.

## How to Claim Medical Insurance Benefits

### 1. PAYMENT TO YOUR DOCTOR OR SUPPLIER

If you and your doctor (or supplier) agree that he will apply for the medical insurance payment, it will be made directly to him. This is called “assignment” of the benefit.

- A. Complete and sign Part I of the *Request for Medicare Payment* (Form SSA-1490). (A copy of this form is on page 25.) Often your doctor's office or the supplier will complete Part I as a convenience to you.
- B. Your doctor or supplier completes Part II of the form.
- C. Your doctor or supplier sends in the *Request for Medicare Payment* form.

When your doctor or supplier accepts assignment, he agrees that his total charge will not exceed the reasonable charge (see page 15). This means that you are responsible only for any of the \$50 deductible not yet met, plus 20 percent of the balance of the “reasonable charges.”

### 2. PAYMENT TO YOU

If either you or the doctor (or supplier) do not want to use the assignment method, the medical insurance payment can be made directly to you. ***You can make a claim whether or not the bill has been paid.***

- A. Complete and sign Part I of the *Request for Medicare Payment* form. Often your doctor's office or the supplier will complete Part I as a convenience to you.
- B. Your doctor or supplier will either complete Part II or give you an itemized bill. An itemized bill shows the date, place, and description of each service, and the charge for each service. (Be sure your name and claim number are on each bill exactly as they are shown on your health insurance card.)
- C. You send in the *Request for Medicare Payment*, with either Part II completed or with itemized bills, to the organization which handles claims for the area where you received services. These organizations are listed on pages 27 to 29.

#### NOTE:

You may send in a number of bills from the *same* doctor or supplier (or from different doctors or suppliers) with a single *Request for Medicare Payment* form.

Also, whichever method you use, if you have health insurance in addition to Medicare or you are covered under a State program which pays all or part of your health care, be sure to fill in Item 5 of your *Request for Medicare Payment* form. (See page 25.)

## When to Send in Your First Claim Each Year

Medical insurance does not pay any part of the first \$50 of covered medical expenses in each year. After the first \$50, medical insurance pays 80 percent of the reasonable charges.

Before *any* payment can be made, your record must show that you have met your deductible. So, as soon as your bills come to \$50, send them to the office that will be handling your medical insurance claims (see page 27). If the charges for covered services are \$50 or more, an entry will be made in your record to show that you have met the deductible for the year, and any payment due at the time will be made.

In some cases, of course, you may want to send them in before you have a total of \$50. For example, you may already have \$40 in small medical bills when you receive services from a doctor for \$25 and he agrees to take your assignment. In that case, you would send in your \$40 in prior bills, so that when the assignment is processed for payment the record will show that you have met \$40 of the \$50 deductible.

Your social security office will always be glad to answer your questions about when to send in your first claim.

## If You Belong to a Group Practice Prepayment Plan

Group practice prepayment plans represent a special way of making health services available to their members. Generally, each member pays regular premiums to the plan in advance and this entitles him to receive any of the health services the plan provides, whenever he needs them, without paying a separate fee for each health service he receives. Congress took steps to assure that these plans could participate in the Medicare program while continuing their established method of operation.

Almost all group practice prepayment plans have made special arrangements with the Social Security Administration to receive direct payment for covered services they furnish their members who are medical insurance beneficiaries.

If you are a member of a plan which has made these special arrangements:

You **DO NOT** need to make a claim for any covered services which are provided through your group practice prepayment plan.

You **DO** need to make a claim for any covered services you receive which are not provided by your plan. In making your claim, you use one of the two methods described on page 22.

In addition, each plan has developed special methods to credit your membership premium payments or your use of plan services to the \$50 deductible. Your plan will, of course, advise you of its method.

If you need more information, get in touch with your group practice prepayment plan.

## When the Carry Over Helps You

To help the beneficiary who might otherwise need to meet the \$50 annual deductible twice in a short period, there is a special carry-over rule.

If you have expenses in the last 3 months of a year which can be counted toward your \$50 deductible for that year, they can also be counted toward the \$50 annual deductible

for the next year. This is called the carry over. So, even if you have not met the \$50 deductible before October, be sure to send in all the bills for covered services you receive in October, November, or December. The carry over will be credited to your deductible for both years.

## Time Limits for Payment of Claims

Under the law, there are some time limits for making payment on claims you send in. These limits are as follows:

### WHEN SERVICES WERE RECEIVED

October 1, 1969—September 30, 1970

October 1, 1970—September 30, 1971

October 1, 1971—September 30, 1972

### WHEN CLAIMS MUST BE FILED

By December 31, 1971

By December 31, 1972

By December 31, 1973

**NOTE:** These time limits for sending claims in are very important. *Medicare can pay your claim only if it is sent in within the time limits shown above.* Don't lose money by waiting too long to send in your claim.

## The Request for Payment Form

Page 25 shows the *Request for Medicare Payment* form. If you do not have a claim

form, you can use the form on page 25. Just cut it out along the line.

## REQUEST FOR MEDICARE PAYMENT

**MEDICAL INSURANCE BENEFITS—SOCIAL SECURITY ACT** (See Instructions on Back—Type or Print Information)

Form Approved  
Budget Bureau No.  
72-B0730

72-R0730  
NOTICE—Anyone who misrepresents or falsifies essential information requested by this form may upon conviction be subject to fine and imprisonment under Federal Law.

**PART I - PATIENT TO FILL IN ITEMS 1 THROUGH 6 ONLY**

		Copy from your HEALTH INSURANCE CARD (See example  on back)		1 Name of patient		
3 Patient's mailing address		City, State, ZIP code		2 Health insurance claim number  Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
4 Describe the illness or injury for which you received treatment (Always fill in this item if your doctor does not complete Part II below)				Was your illness or injury connected with your employment?		
				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
5 If you have other health insurance or if your State medical assistance agency will pay part of your medical expenses and you want information about this claim released to the insurance company or State agency upon its request, give the following information.						
Insuring organization or State agency name and address			Policy or Medical Assistance Number			
6 I authorize any holder of medical or other information about me to release to the Social Security Administration or its intermediaries or carriers any information needed for this or a related Medicare claim. I permit a copy of this authorization to be used in place of the original, and request payment of medical insurance benefits either to myself or to the party who accepts assignment below.						
Signature of patient (See instructions on reverse where patient is unable to sign) <b>SIGN HERE </b>			Date signed			
<b>PART II—PHYSICIAN OR SUPPLIER TO FILL IN 7 THROUGH 14</b>						
7 A. Date of each service	B. Place of service (*See Codes below)	C. Fully describe surgical or medical procedures and other services or supplies furnished for each date given		D. Nature of illness or injury requiring services or supplies	E. Charges (If related to unusual circumstances explain in 7C)	Leave Blank
					\$	
					\$	
					\$	
					\$	
8 Name and address of physician or supplier (Number and street, city, State, ZIP code)		Telephone No.		9 Total charges	\$	
		Physician or supplier code		10 Amount paid	\$	
				11 Any unpaid balance due	\$	
12 Assignment of patient's bill (See reverse) 		13 Show name and address of facility where services were performed (If other than home or office visits)				
<input type="checkbox"/> I accept assignment <input type="checkbox"/> I do not accept assignment						
14 Signature of physician or supplier (A physician's signature certifies that physician's services were personally rendered by him or under his personal direction) 		<input type="checkbox"/> MD <input type="checkbox"/> DO <input type="checkbox"/> DDS Other degree _____		Date signed		
<p>*O—Doctor's Office IL—Independent Laboratory</p> <p>H—Patient's Home (If portable X-ray services, identify the supplier) IH—Inpatient Hospital</p> <p>ECF—Extended Care Facility OH—Outpatient Hospital</p> <p>OL—Other Locations NH—Nursing Home</p>						

\*O—Doctor's Office  
IL—Independent Laboratory

H—Patient's Home (If portable X-ray services, identify the supplier)  
IH—Inpatient Hospital

ECF—Extended Care Facility  
OH—Outpatient Hospital

OL—Other Locations  
NH—Nursing Home

FORM SSA-1490 (10-69)

**Department of Health, Education  
Social Security Administration**

## HOW TO FILL OUT YOUR MEDICARE FORM

### There are two ways that Medicare can help pay your doctor bills

**One way is for Medicare to pay your doctor.**—If you and your doctor agree, Medicare will pay him directly. This is the assignment method. You do not submit any claim; the doctor does. All you do is fill out Part I of this form and leave it with your doctor. Under this method the doctor agrees to accept the charge determination of the Medicare carrier as the full charge; you are responsible for the deductible and coinsurance. Please read Your Medicare Handbook to help you understand about the deductible and coinsurance. (Because Medicare has special payment arrangements with group practice prepayment plans these plans handle all claims for covered services they furnish to their members.)

**The other way is for Medicare to pay you.**—Medicare can also pay you directly—before or after you have paid your doctor. If you

submit the claim yourself, fill out Part I and ask your doctor to fill out Part II. If you have an itemized bill from him, you may submit it rather than have him complete Part II. (This form, with Part I completed by you, may be used to send in several itemized bills from different doctors and suppliers.) Bills should show who furnished the services, the patient's name and number, dates of services, where the services were furnished, a description of the services, and charges for each separate service. It is helpful if the diagnosis is also shown. Then mail itemized bills and this form to the address shown in the upper left-hand corner, Block A. If no address is shown there, use the address listed in Your Medicare Handbook—or get advice from your nearest social security district office.

### SOME THINGS TO NOTE IN FILLING OUT PART I (Your doctor will fill out Part II).

- 1 & 2** Copy the name and number and indicate your sex exactly as shown on your health insurance card. Include the letters at the end of the number.
- 3** Enter your mailing address and telephone number, if any.
- 4** Describe your illness or injury.  
Be sure to check one of the two boxes.
- 5** If you have other health insurance or expect a welfare agency to pay part of the expenses, complete item 5.
- 6** Be sure to sign your name. If you cannot write your name, sign by mark (X), and have a witness sign his name and enter his address on this line.

If the claim is filed for the patient by another person he should enter the patient's name and write "By", sign his own name and address in this space, show his relationship to the patient, and why the patient cannot sign. (If the patient has died the survivor should contact the nearest social security office for information on what to do.)

### IMPORTANT NOTES FOR PHYSICIANS AND SUPPLIERS

**Item 12:** Acceptance of an assignment requires the physician (or supplier), to accept the charge determination of the Medicare carrier as his full charge for the service.

This form may also be used by a supplier, or by the patient to claim

reimbursement for charges by a supplier for services such as the use of an ambulance or medical appliances.

If the physician or supplier does not want Part II information released to the organization named in item 5, he should write "No further release" in item 7C following the description of services.

## Medical Insurance—Part B of Medicare

# Where to Send Your Claim

The list below gives the names and addresses of the organizations selected by the Social Security Administration to handle medical insurance claims. These organizations are called carriers. In most cases, carriers handle claims for an entire State; a few handle claims for only part of a State. To find out where to send your medical insurance claim, look in the list for the State *where you received the services*. Under the name of the State (or, in some cases, under the list of counties within a State), you will find the name of the organization that will handle your medical insurance claim.

If you are not sure where your first claim should go and happen to send your claim to the wrong office, don't worry. Your claim will be sent on to the right place. Be sure to

include the word "Medicare" in the carrier's address on the envelope, and give *your* return address.

After you make a claim you will get a new claim form. It will usually show the carrier's name and address in the top left-hand corner. If you ever need to claim benefits, but you have no claim form, you can get one by phoning or writing your social security office (or you may use the one on page 25 of this handbook).

**NOTE:** If you are a railroad annuitant (even if you are also entitled to social security benefits), send your medical insurance claim to The Travelers Insurance Company office which is nearest to your home—no matter where you received services.

### ALABAMA

Medicare  
Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Alabama  
930 South 20th Street  
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

### ALASKA

Medicare  
Aetna Life & Casualty  
522 SW. Fifth Street  
Portland, Oregon 97204

### ARIZONA

Medicare  
Aetna Life & Casualty  
3033 North Central Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

### ARKANSAS

Medicare  
Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
P.O. Box 2181  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

### CALIFORNIA

#### Counties of:

Los Angeles	Imperial
Orange	San Luis Obispo
San Diego	Riverside
Ventura	Santa Barbara
San Bernardino	
Medicare	
Occidental Life Insurance Co.	
of California	

### CALIFORNIA (continued)

Box 54905  
Los Angeles, California 90054  
**Rest of State:**  
Medicare  
California Blue Shield  
P.O. Box 7968, Rincon Annex  
San Francisco, California 94119

### COLORADO

Medicare  
Colorado Medical Service, Inc.  
P.O. Box 6410  
Denver, Colorado 80206

### CONNECTICUT

Medicare  
Connecticut General Life Insurance Co.  
71 Catlin St.  
Meriden, Connecticut 06450

### DELAWARE

Medicare  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
of Delaware  
201 West 14th Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19899

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Medicare  
Medical Service of D.C.  
550—12th St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

### FLORIDA

Medicare  
Blue Shield of Florida, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2525  
Jacksonville, Florida 32201

### GEORGIA

The Prudential Insurance Co.  
of America  
Medicare Part B  
P.O. Box 7340, Station C  
1175 Peachtree St., N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

### HAWAII

Medicare  
Aetna Life & Casualty  
P.O. Box 3947  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

### IDAHO

Medicare  
The Equitable Life Assurance Society  
P.O. Box 8048  
Boise, Idaho 83707

### ILLINOIS

Counties of:  
Cook  
DuPage  
Kane

Lake  
Will

**ILLINOIS** (continued)

Medicare  
Illinois Medical Service  
222 N. Dearborn  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

**Rest of State:**

Medicare  
Continental Casualty Co.  
P.O. Box 910  
Chicago, Illinois 60690

**INDIANA**

Medicare  
Mutual Medical Insurance, Inc.  
110 North Illinois Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**IOWA**

Medicare  
Iowa Medical Service  
Liberty Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50307

**KANSAS**

**Counties of:**  
Johnson Wyandotte  
Medicare  
Blue Shield of Kansas City  
P.O. Box 169  
Kansas City, Missouri 64141

**Rest of State:**

Medicare  
Kansas Physicians' Service  
P.O. Box 953  
Topeka, Kansas 66601

**KENTUCKY**

Medicare  
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.  
1218 Harrodsburg Road  
Lexington, Kentucky 40504

**LOUISIANA**

Medicare  
Pan-American Life Insurance Co.  
P.O. Box 60450  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160

**MAINE**

Medicare  
Union Mutual Life Insurance Co.  
P.O. Box 4629  
Portland, Maine 04112

**MARYLAND**

**Counties of:**  
Montgomery Prince Georges  
Medicare  
Medical Service of D.C.  
550—12th St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

**Rest of State:**

Medicare  
Maryland Blue Shield, Inc.  
Box 202  
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Medicare  
Massachusetts Medical Service  
P.O. Box 2194  
Boston, Massachusetts 02106

**MICHIGAN**

Medicare  
Michigan Medical Service  
P.O. Box 2201  
Detroit, Michigan 48231

**MINNESOTA****Counties of:**

Anoka	Ramsey
Dakota	Washington
Hennepin	

Medicare  
The Travelers Insurance Co.  
515 Marquette Avenue, South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

**Counties of:**

Filmore	Olmstead
Goodhue	Wabasha
Houston	Winona
Medicare	
The Travelers Insurance Co.	
201 First Avenue, S.W.	
Rochester, Minnesota 55902	

**Rest of State:**

Medicare  
Blue Shield of Minnesota  
P.O. Box 7899  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

**MISSISSIPPI**

Medicare  
The Travelers Insurance Co.  
P.O. Box 22545  
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

**MISSOURI****Counties of:**

Andrew	Henry
Atchison	Holt
Bates	Jackson
Benton	Johnson
Buchanan	Lafayette
Caldwell	Livingston
Carroll	Mercer
Cass	Nodaway
Clay	Pettis
Clinton	Platte
Daviess	Ray
DeKalb	St. Clair
Gentry	Saline
Grundy	Vernon
Harrison	Worth

Medicare  
Blue Shield of Kansas City  
P.O. Box 169  
Kansas City, Missouri 64141

**MISSOURI** (continued)**Rest of State:**

Medicare  
General American Life Insurance Co.  
P.O. Box 505  
St. Louis, Missouri 63166

**MONTANA**

Medicare  
Montana Physicians' Service  
P.O. Box 2510  
Helena, Montana 59601

**NEBRASKA**

Medicare  
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Co.  
P.O. Box 456, Downtown Station  
Omaha, Nebraska 68101

**NEVADA**

Medicare  
Aetna Life & Casualty  
P.O. Box 3077  
Reno, Nevada 89502

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Medicare  
New Hampshire-Vermont Physician  
Service  
Two Pillsbury Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**NEW JERSEY**

Medicare  
The Prudential Insurance Co. of  
America  
P.O. Box 6500  
Millville, New Jersey 08332

**NEW MEXICO**

Medicare  
The Equitable Life Assurance Society  
P.O. Box 3070, Station D  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

**NEW YORK****Counties of:**

Bronx	Orange
Columbia	Putnam
Delaware	Richmond
Dutchess	Rockland
Greene	Suffolk
Kings	Sullivan
Nassau	Ulster
New York	Westchester

Medicare  
United Medical Service, Inc.  
Two Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

**County of:**

Queens  
Medicare  
Group Health Insurance, Inc.  
227 West 40th Street  
New York, New York 10018

## NEW YORK (continued)

### Counties of:

Livingston Seneca  
Monroe Wayne  
Ontario Yates  
Medicare  
Genesee Valley Medical Care, Inc.  
41 Chestnut Street  
Rochester, New York 14604

### Counties of:

Allegany Niagara  
Cattaraugus Orleans  
Erie Wyoming  
Genesee  
Medicare  
Blue Shield of Western New York, Inc.  
298 Main Street  
Buffalo, New York 14202

### Counties of:

Albany Montgomery  
Broome Oneida  
Cayuga Onondaga  
Chautauqua Oswego  
Chemung Otsego  
Chenango Rensselaer  
Clinton Saratoga  
Cortland Schenectady  
Essex Schoharie  
Franklin Schuyler  
Fulton Steuben  
Hamilton St. Lawrence  
Herkimer Tioga  
Jefferson Tompkins  
Lewis Warren  
Madison Washington  
Medicare  
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.  
258 Genesee Street  
Utica, New York 13502

## NORTH CAROLINA

The Prudential Insurance Co.  
of America  
Medicare B Division  
P.O. Box 1482  
High Point, North Carolina 27261

## NORTH DAKOTA

Medicare  
North Dakota Physicians Service  
301 Eighth Street, South  
Fargo, North Dakota 58102

## OHIO

### Counties of:

Ashtabula Lake  
Cuyahoga Loraine  
Geauga  
Medicare  
Medical Mutual of Cleveland, Inc.  
2060 East Ninth Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

## OHIO (continued)

### Rest of State:

Medicare  
Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co.  
P.O. Box 57  
Columbus, Ohio 43216

## OKLAHOMA

Medicare  
Aetna Life & Casualty  
7 South Harvey  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

## OREGON

Medicare  
Aetna Life & Casualty  
522 SW. Fifth Street  
Portland, Oregon 97204

## PENNSYLVANIA

Medicare  
Pennsylvania Blue Shield  
Box 65  
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011

## RHODE ISLAND

Medicare  
Physicians' Service  
444 Westminster Mall  
Providence, Rhode Island 02901

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Medicare  
Blue Shield of South Carolina  
Drawer F, Forest Acres Branch  
Columbia, South Carolina 29206

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Medicare  
South Dakota Medical Service, Inc.  
711 North Lake Avenue  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57102

## TENNESSEE

Medicare  
The Equitable Life Assurance Society  
P.O. Box 1465  
Nashville, Tennessee 37202

## TEXAS

Medicare  
Group Medical and Surgical Service  
P.O. Box 22147  
Dallas, Texas 75222

## UTAH

Medicare  
Blue Shield of Utah  
2455 Parley's Way,  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

## VERMONT

Medicare  
New Hampshire-Vermont Physician  
Service  
Two Pillsbury Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

## VIRGINIA

Counties of:  
Arlington Fairfax

## VIRGINIA (continued)

### City of:

Alexandria  
Medicare  
Medical Service of D.C.  
550—12th St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

### Rest of State:

Medicare  
The Travelers Insurance Co.  
P.O. Box 10166  
Richmond, Virginia 23230

## WASHINGTON

Medicare  
Washington Physicians' Service  
Mail to your local Medical Service  
Bureau

## WEST VIRGINIA

Medicare  
Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co.  
P.O. Box 3183  
Charleston, West Virginia 25332

## WISCONSIN

County of:  
Milwaukee  
Medicare  
Surgical Care  
P.O. Box 2049  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

### Rest of State:

Medicare  
Wisconsin Physicians Service  
Box 1787  
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

## WYOMING

Medicare  
The Equitable Life Assurance Society  
P.O. Box 628  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

## PUERTO RICO

Medicare  
Seguros De Servicio De Salud De  
Puerto Rico  
G.P.O. Box 3628  
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00936

## VIRGIN ISLANDS

Medicare  
Mutual of Omaha Insurance Co.  
P.O. Box 456, Downtown Station  
Omaha, Nebraska 68101

## AMERICAN SAMOA

Medicare  
Aetna Life & Casualty  
P.O. Box 3947  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

## GUAM

Medicare  
Aetna Life & Casualty  
P.O. Box 3947  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

## **Questions and Answers about Medical Insurance**

- 1. Where can I get more copies of the Request for Medicare Payment form?**  
Generally when you send a claim to the carrier, you will get back a new *Request for Medicare Payment* form to use for your next claim. Also, most doctors' offices have a supply of the forms. And you can always get extra copies from your social security office.
- 2. Is there a limit on what medical insurance will pay for doctors' services when the services are mainly for the treatment of mental illness?**  
Yes. When such services are furnished outside a hospital, the payment is limited to a maximum of \$250 a year.
- 3. Who makes the decision whether to rent or purchase durable medical equipment my doctor has prescribed for use in my home?**  
You do. When considering purchase, particularly of expensive equipment, you should keep in mind that the Medicare payments are made over a period of time, based on the reasonable rental rate for the equipment, and that these payments stop when your need for the equipment ends. So in deciding whether to purchase equipment, you may wish to talk to your doctor about how long you may need it. Your social security office can also help when you have any questions.
- 4. What happens if I want to assign the payment to a doctor, but he doesn't want to accept an assignment?**  
That is his right. He does not have to take an assignment of your benefits. If your doctor doesn't agree to take your assignment, the payment will be made directly to you, whether or not the bill has been paid.
- 5. If I assign the benefit to my doctor**

*or supplier, does this mean all my future benefit claims must also be handled on an assignment basis?*

No. The payment can be made directly to your doctor or supplier one time and the next time it can be made to you.

- 6. I understand that the medical insurance benefits are paid on a "reasonable charge" basis. Who decides what the reasonable charge is, and how does this affect payment?**

The carrier determines "reasonable charge" for covered services. If there is an assignment, the doctor or supplier agrees that the reasonable charge will be his total charge and that he will charge *you* only for any of the \$50 deductible not yet met and 20 percent of the balance of the "reasonable charge." If there is no assignment, medical insurance can pay *you* only 80 percent of the reasonable charge (after the \$50 deductible is met), even if the bill exceeds the "reasonable charge." (See page 15.)

- 7. What can I do if I disagree with the amount paid on my claim?**

Write to the carrier which handled the claim and tell why you disagree with the amount allowed. If you are still not satisfied with the reply, you can request a hearing from the carrier.

- 8. Medicare does not pay all the doctor's bills. What can I do if I can't pay the rest?**

If you do not have any other insurance or other resources with which you can pay the amounts due, you may want to ask at your public assistance office about help. The people there can give you information about a State program such as old-age assistance or medical assistance for the aged (sometimes called "medicaid").

# Some Health Services and Items That NEITHER Hospital Insurance Nor Medical Insurance Will Pay For

Under each kind of benefit described under hospital insurance, there is a list of items and services hospital insurance will not pay for. The medical insurance part of the book also has a list of items and services that medical insurance will not pay for. But there are some other items or services that are not covered under either part of Medicare. These are shown in the following list:

- Services that are not reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury.

- Cosmetic surgery—except when furnished in connection with prompt repair of accidental injury or for the improvement of the functioning of a malformed body member.
- Services for which neither the patient nor another party on his behalf has a legal obligation to pay—such as free chest X-ray.
- Certain services payable under other Federal, State, or local government programs.
- Services furnished by immediate relatives or members of the patient's household.

## The First 3 Pints of Blood

Medicare cannot pay for the first 3 pints of whole blood (or units of packed red blood cells) that you receive either under hospital or medical insurance.

- Hospital insurance cannot pay for the first 3 pints of blood you receive in a *benefit period*. Usually, when you receive blood under hospital insurance it will be as a bed patient in a hospital.
- Medical insurance cannot pay for the first 3 pints of blood you receive in a *calendar year*. Usually, when you receive blood under medical insurance it will be in a

doctor's office, a clinic, or the outpatient or emergency department of a hospital.

These are *separate* rules and they operate independently of each other. For example, if you receive blood under both hospital insurance and medical insurance, Medicare could not pay for the first 3 pints of blood under *either* program. But the blood you get under hospital insurance is fully paid for starting with the fourth pint during a benefit period; medical insurance will help pay for the blood you get starting with the fourth pint during a calendar year.

## HOW TO GET HELP TO REPLACE BLOOD

Some people are able to arrange for the replacement of these first 3 pints of blood—that way they don't have to pay for them. There are two ways this can be done. First, you may arrange for replacement from a friend or relative or you may be a member of a blood donor group that will replace these first 3 pints of blood for you. Second—and this is often overlooked—your children (or your son-in-law or daughter-in-law) may

belong to a blood replacement plan that includes you as a beneficiary. In that case, you would be eligible for blood on the basis of *their* membership.

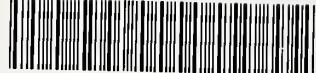
You might want to check with your children and children-in-law about this so you'll have the information handy if you ever need it.

In almost all blood donor plans, blood replacement credit can be arranged anywhere in the United States.

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